1	2	3	4	5	6	7
May 08	222.76	-0.52	252.74	2.99	231.08	1.1
Jun 08	223.8	0.47	241.45	-4.47	237.38	2.7
Jul 08	228.15	1.94	252.03	4.38	240	1.1
Aug 08	229.66	0.66	255.14	1.23	241.24	0.5
Sep 08	229.85	0.08	276	8.18	241.5	0.1
Oct 08	231.12	0.55	271.65	-1.58	238.8	-1.1
Nov 08	235.68	1.97	274.12	0.91	234.58	-1.8

(e) The changes in prices of fruits and vegetables is owing to seasonal factors. In the case of onion, its Minimum Export Price (MEP) has been increased to improve the domestic availability and stabilize onion prices. The other specific measures with respect to foodgrains is listed under (a) & (b).

Reduction in monthly quota of rice to Kerala

2065.SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many representations had been submitted during the year 2008 regarding cut short of monthly quota of rice provided to Kerala for distribution as a part of rationing system;

(b) if so, the action taken in details and the reasons for reducing total quantity of rice;

(c) whether competent authority had considered the submissions of Kerala State before dividing ration card holders as above poverty line and below poverty line;

(d) if so, the details of above submissions that had been accepted;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether steps would be taken to restore same quota of rice supplied during year 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (f) Representations have been submitted by Govt. of Kerala during the year 2008-09 for increasing rice allocation under APL category.

It may be mentioned that the allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made for BPL, AAY and APL families to all the States/UTs on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission, projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India, as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration card issued by each State/UT, whichever is less.

While full allocations of foodgrains have been made for BPL and AAY categories as per norms @ 35 kg per family per month for all accepted numbers of BPL/AAY families, allocations for APL

category are made depending upon the availability of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Allocations of foodgrains for the APL category were made in larger quantities during earlier period to liquidate surplus stocks available in the Central Pool. However, keeping in view the declining stocks position of foodgrains in the Central Pool from 2006-07, the allocation of wheat and rice under TPDS to States/UTs for the APL category have been rationalized with effect from June, 2006 and April,2007 respectively, on the basis of offtake levels during the previous, 3 years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Presently the State of Kerala is being made monthly allocation of 28,833 tons of foodgrains (17,056 tons rice and 11,777 tons wheat) for APL category. Allocation of APL rice to Kerala during 2008-09 is as per applicable allocation norms *i.e.* based on average of offtake during 2006-07 and 2007-08. There is no reduction of rice quota to the State. However, keeping in view the requests received from the State Government during the current year 2008-09, as an exception to applicable allocation norms, the Central Government has made additional allocation of 89,000 tons of rice at APL rate to Kerala, thus increasing the total allocation of rice to the State under APL category to last year's offtake level of 2.94 lakh tons.

Details of allocation and offtake of rice under APL category for the period from 2005-06 to 2008-09 (upto October 2008) are as under:

(In thousand tons)

Year	Allocation (APL rice)	Offtake
2005-06	1,361.040	57.492
2006-07	1,361.040	180.737
2007-08	307.008	294.412
2008-09	293.672	129.221*

* Upto October 2008.

It can be seen from the above details, offtake of APL rice in Kerala has been lower than allocations, even in the year 2007-08. Further, the allocations of rice during 2007-08 and 2008-09 to the State are much more than the offtake by the State during 2006-07.

Food Security

2066.SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food crisis that country is now witnessing is not a sudden emergence but a creation of deliberate policies and laws that have over a period of time practically taken away country's food security;

(b) whether India has witnessed very high increase in prices of essential commodities;